

# Gospel Power



*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)*

*The Gospel Power is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.*

**Anderson  
church of Christ**  
5900 Highway 207  
Anderson, Alabama

**Visit Us On The Web**  
[Anderson-church.org](http://Anderson-church.org)

## **Men Privileged To Serve:** Sunday, December 23rd:

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Bible Reading .... (Num. 26:44-56)  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Prayer  
..... Brad Hammond

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Scottie Goode  
Assisting ..... Brian Word  
Serving ..... Michael Word  
..... Aric Butler  
..... Corey Goode  
..... Jonathan Keenon  
Closing Prayer  
..... Jimmy Glass

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Jim Phillips  
Bible Reading .... (Num. 26:57-65)  
..... Steve Parker  
Prayer  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Lord's Supper  
..... Scottie Goode  
..... Brian Word  
Closing Prayer  
..... Mark McIntyre

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## *A Short Burst of Spirituality?*

**Allen Dvorak**

The percentage of Americans who believe that "religion's influence in American life is growing" has more than doubled in recent months, according to a poll conducted by Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life (cited in a Washington Times story written by Larry Witham and published on 2/28/02). We might expect such results in light of the September 11th tragedies in New York City and Washington, D.C. Certainly God and religion in general received much attention in the aftermath of that day.

The same new story cited other interesting poll results. According to a Gallup poll, church attendance went up several points immediately after 9/11. A poll conducted by Barna Research, which specializes in trends in "Christianity," indicated that church attendance rose about 25 percent immediately after the September 11th terrorism, but also noted that within two months it had returned to pre-September levels.

That's revealing. When something terrible happened in our country, something which grabbed the attention of the entire nation, people turned to their spiritual side, but only briefly. The same Barna poll reported that Bible sales went up after the terrorist attacks, but that the number of people who regularly read their Bibles remained unchanged. A Bible unread is useless. In fact, only 18 percent of people polled said that they turned to the Bible "for moral guidance;" most relied on feelings or parental instruction.

Polls can produce inaccurate results. If, however, these results are even close to reflecting the truth about us as a society, they represent troubling information. I understand that church attendance is not the only indicator of interest in God, but Biblical instructions about collective worship emphasize its importance to a Christian's spiritual life (1 Corinthians 11:23-34; 16:1-2; Acts

20:7; 2:42).

The reason that such poll results are so troubling is that serving God is a life-changing profession, not a "fire" insurance policy which is remembered only occasionally when the premium must be paid and forgotten the rest of the time (read Hebrews 10:35-39). Mr. Witham, in his Washington Times story, quoted George Barna of Barna Research as saying that these disturbing attendance trends may also reflect a failure on the part of churches to be relevant and nurture spirituality.

I would contend that these poll results indicate that the religion of some is superficial, lacking real foundation and/or commitment. As a child, I can remember enthusiastically repenting of wrongdoing in the hour of suffering, but my good intentions were often quickly forgotten as the discomfort of the punishment subsided.

Our faith in God must be grounded in the firm conviction that the Bible is His word. There is plenty of evidence for the inspiration of the Scriptures and those who are serious about serving God will seek to establish their faith on a rational basis. When our faith is sufficiently grounded, it will convert our commitment to serving Him from a momentary emotional response to a deliberate and sustainable decision made because of love, not just fear (1 John 4:18).

-via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama



## *Seeing The Invisible*

**Jason Longstreth**

There are many things in our world that we cannot see with our eyes. We often call these things "invisible". This word itself means something that cannot be seen. However, just because something may be invisible, that does not mean that we cannot see it or perceive it. God is one example. Have you ever heard anyone say, "If

God would just show Himself to me, I would believe" or something to that effect? I have. But we can't see God. Or can we?

Look at what the Holy Spirit said through Paul in Romans 1:18-20. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

Here we are told that God did make Himself evident to us. He revealed Himself to us. Paul says that God's invisible attributes have been clearly seen. How can that be? We see God in the things He does and what He has done. We understand Him through what He made. In other words, how do we know God exists? Creation itself proves this fact. And it points to two invisible attributes of God - His eternal power and divine nature. When we deny that God exists, we are without excuse.

The Psalmist says it a little differently. "The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world..." Psalm 19:1-4.

Here, instead of using the idea of "seeing" God, the Psalmist says that the heavens and expanse tell us about God. Even though they do not actually have a voice, they pour forth speech and reveal knowledge. This also shows that creation points to the existence of God - there is no denying it!

In Hebrews 11:1 we are told "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." The King James Version says faith is the "evidence of things not seen." Then, in verse three we are told, "By faith we under-

stand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible." Once again, the creation plays an important part in our understanding of God. By faith we understand that God created everything.

Therefore, we understand that what we see was not made out of things which are visible, and we also understand the invisible attributes of God through what we see. When you look at the world around you and gaze into the sky, how can you deny God's existence? What more does He have to do to prove that He exists? No, He has done enough.

Nevertheless, many choose to ignore the evidence that God has given us. These are the people Paul spoke of in Romans 1:21-23. "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures." These are the ones against whom the wrath of God is revealed. This was the condition of many people in Paul's day, but if there has ever been a commentary on our times, I believe Romans 1:18-32 is it. Therefore, I am including the rest of the passage for you to read and meditate upon.

Romans 1:24-32 "Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind,

to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

And remember, all of this started by not remembering our Creator.

-via *The Beacon*; Bowling Green, Kentucky

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Marcia Cooper* continues in CCU at ECM hospital in Florence...*Margaret Weathers* is doing better after being sick with the flu this past week ...*Jonathan Keenon's father, Glen Keenon,* is now home after spending several days in the hospital in Decatur... *Jimmy and Charles Glass's sister, Janice Moody,* continues at home recuperating from a broken hip ...*Brooke Phillips' grandfather, Bill Maner,* is at home and not doing well...*Myrtie Williams* continues in Glenwood Convalescent Center in Florence ...*Onzell Tucker* continues at home with her compression fractures ...*Erica and Carson Crunk* have been sick this past week and were not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Signa Skipworth, Catherine Parker & C.L. Weathers' cousin, Hilda Fincher,* is now at her home ...*Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire,* continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Marissa Gatlin and all the family* in the passing of Marissa's grandmother, *Frances Fowler*. Her funeral will be this afternoon at 2:00 at St. James United Methodist church in Florence.

**PREACHING TONIGHT:** *Paddy Kendall-Ball* will be here tonight to speak for us. He will be informing us about the situation of the brethren in Zimbabwe.

**GWANDA, ZIMBABWE:** We are gathering food and other items listed in *The Anderson Communciator* last week to be sent to the brethren in the church at Gwanda, Zimbabwe. Let us remember this effort.

**SONG PRACTICE:** There will be a period of singing and learning some new songs this afternoon at 5:00. If you would like to do this and are able to come I hope that you will.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Garners: Eddie and Katy* are on vacation in the mountains this weekend.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** This evening will be the time for Communication Group C to meet. If you are in group C, remember to meet with your group this evening.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance—Week of Dec. 16th  
*Sunday:*

Bible Classes ..... 86  
Morning Worship ..... 105  
Evening Worship ..... 80

*Wednesday:*

Bible Classes ..... 77



**Remember Our Bible Class Periods**

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.  
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

**Schedule of Services**

**Sunday**

Bible Classes ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**

Bible Classes ..... 7:00 p.m.

**Elders**

Michael Clemmons ..... (256) 247-0836  
Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391

**Deacons**

Jimmy Glass ..... (256) 247-0571  
Eddie J. Hammond ..... (256) 247-3038  
Mark McIntyre ..... (256) 729-8316  
Steve Parker ..... (256) 247-7843  
Phil Pressnell ..... (256) 232-8509  
Rocky Rose ..... (256) 247-0011  
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